

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Riverside City Council Meeting

Held on Thursday, August 11, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Williams called the Riverside, Ohio City Council Work Session to order at 6:01 p.m. at the Riverside Administrative Offices located at 5200 Springfield Street, Suite 100, Riverside, Ohio, 45431.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Council attendance was as follows: Mr. Denning, present; Mrs. Franklin, present; Ms. Fry, present; Mr. Joseph, present; Ms. Lommatzsch, present; Mr. Maxfield, absent; and Mayor Williams, present.

Staff present was as follows: Josh Rauch, City Manager; Frank Robinson, Police Chief; and Katie Lewallen, Clerk of Council.

**EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS:** Deputy Mayor Denning moved, seconded by Ms. Lommatzsch, to excuse Mr. Maxfield. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

**ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA:** No changes were made.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Ms. Lommatzsch moved, seconded by Mr. Joseph, to approve the agenda as presented. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

## WORK SESSION ITEMS:

**I. Tom Cloud Park** – Mr. Rauch stated that the Oakes Tree Development is working on a project in the Northern Circle Area. There is a housing project being developed. Oakes Tree Development has been in discussion with Huber Heights, the entity that owns Thomas Cloud Park. Mr. Oakes, who owns the property adjacent to the park, has worked a deal out with the City of Huber Heights to expand Tom Cloud Park. This is occurring within the City of Riverside city limits, but this is a private property deal; and the city is not involved in the actual exchange of property. However, the City of Huber Heights has asked Riverside City Council to approve a resolution in support of the expansion of Thomas Cloud Park. That is what is going to be presented to council next week. The city has no substantive obligation. The resolution just states that Riverside supports the expansion, and to meet with Huber Heights to discuss the expansion and planning of the expansion of the park along with any grants Huber Heights may wish to pursue. The City of Riverside is not committing any money to this. The parcel and park portion would still be located in Riverside.

Mayor Williams stated there are other properties in the city that are owned by neighboring political subdivisions.

Ms. Fry asked if there had been any discussion as to whether they want to provide access to Riverside residents to that part of the park. Mr. Rauch stated that is part of what they would commit to as part of this process. If the park expansion does go forward, then the City of Riverside would be a part of that discussion. Ms. Fry stated her reservation is the order as they are asking for Riverside to support their purchase of the parcel before they know that they are willing allow residents to use the park. Mr. Rauch stated he believes the willingness

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is there as they have passed a similar resolution. He has had conversations with the developer and the city manager of Huber Heights. Everyone's interest is expanding this amenity for the use of any resident in the area that is part of the conversation they would have going forward.

Discussion continued on being part of the conversation with the resolution and everyone's willingness to work together. Mayor Williams stated they should go at this with a good neighbor train of thought.

**II. Floodplain Ordinance Update** – Mr. Rauch stated that the city is required to maintain up-to-date floodplain standards in the zoning code. This has already gone through the planning commission process. Council will see this in early September. These are lengthy and dense regulations required by the federal government. It is a housekeeping item that they need to keep up to date because if they don't, they run the risk of missing grant opportunities and other things by not adopting the latest standards.

**III. Health & Safety Commission** – Mr. Rauch stated that the Health and Safety Commission exists in the code by ordinance. He has spoken with many members of this commission already. He reviewed the creation, membership, and purpose/role of the commission. The commission consists of seven members, two, of which, are vacant, and four of them expire this month. So, after this month there will be one authorized member of the commission still serving. He explained the difficulty of the commission getting volunteers along with other boards and committees. He stated he spoke with the members of the commission to get thoughts and opinions about their experience and what steps they would need to attract more to serve. He heard from them three key themes: 1) focus on events – bike rodeos, bulk of the energy, 2) some want to broaden scope beyond events and 3) perception they can do more policy related things like ADA access or streets for accessibility and pedestrian safety. He suggested they pause on the Health & Safety Commission and use this opportunity to lean into the strategic planning process to identify in council's view what are health and safety related priorities can they focus attention on in the coming months and years. They can then link that up to what the commission can do and how can they do that. They could then pivot the commission to work on broader policy areas that some members wish to focus on. They could also make recommendation to Parks and Recreation and other service organizations in the community. In conjunction with that, they may want to consider some code updates and health and safety commission bylaws. It will depend on the strategic plan in the coming months, but he thinks having a member of council serve as ex-officio to be plugged into the process and creates a linkage between staff, council, and volunteers. He added they want to modify the meeting times and frequency depending on the direction they want to take. This is a conversation they will have when they reset the work of the commission.

Mr. Rauch stated the last part of this and one they will need to work together on is recruitment. Once they know what the commissions priorities should be, they will need to leverage many opportunities and avenues to recruit people who may want to serve. It is a challenge across the country to recruit volunteers, but they have avenues to find and know people who may want to serve. This will take some time to implement, but they can resume the discussion in January or February and move forward with it.



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Ms. Fry stated she appreciated the time he took to give this attention and put them in a position to where they can make a difference.

Mayor Williams stated that challenging citizen volunteers with policy questions he would love to point folks in that direction. When people see council in public and have questions, he would love to be able to point to a board or committee that works specifically on policy issues.

Mrs. Franklin asked since it is in their administrative code do they need to take any action to pause what they are doing. Mr. Rauch stated he has not been advised to take special action. They intend to do the best to live up to the ordinance; they are laying that groundwork. She asked when they start it back up will they decide what they can and cannot do. Mr. Rauch stated they don't want to be so proscriptive versus being so broad. By linking it to the strategic plan idea, the elements that come out of that are what they will focus on, and they will determine the best way to prioritize that. If they were going to do a big road project, for example, this is where they may bring them in for feedback on how this road project strikes them in terms of meeting the city's safety goals.

Mr. Joseph stated they are tasking this commission with ADA accessibility, and it seems very specialized so, would the commission need to go learn the ADA accessibility laws. Mayor Williams stated he does not think so. They have a citizen committee for the planning commission and no one who sits on there is a certified planner, but they have staff that provides the best practices and information. They want a board to give input; the planning commission never has to fly alone. Staff provides them with the information they need to make a decision. Discussion continued on council being more policy driven and strategic planning when the opportunities come, they know where their mind is on policy and how to move forward.

**IV. SRO Update** – Mr. Rauch stated they received a grant from the State of Ohio, which will help them pay for the School Resource Officer. The grant is approximately \$30,000. The total cost of a police officer is around \$110,000 - \$115,000, so the grant pays almost a third of that. They have been in discussion with the school district, and they determined they will equally split the cost of \$40,000 each. In doing this, it creates enough revenue to create a new dedicated SRO position in the police department and fully fund it. The grant can be applied for year-to-year, and they will apply for it next year to keep this going. He stated that Councilman Joseph suggested they have an MOU as many police departments and school districts do this across the country. This helps to govern the nature of the relationship and spell it out with some detail. Chief Robinson and the school district have been working together to create the MOU that Mr. Rauch hopes to bring forward next week. This MOU helps both the schools and the police department to arrive at a clear understanding that the SRO is not the school disciplinarian. The SRO is a multi-faceted position that involves education, outreach, and relationship building.

Mr. Joseph commented on the MOU and how it will be a long standing document that is renewed annually. It will get tweaked as needed and will exist long after council changes. It will safeguard them to have an effective SRO.

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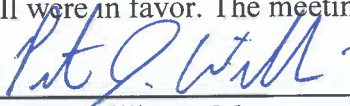
Ms. Fry stated she appreciated the thoroughness of the document. She has had a lot of trepidation from stories she has heard in the news, and this alleviates a lot of that. She stated she wondered about the impact of information sharing by law enforcement giving information to the school about violations of the school handbook and the access of information the other way. She asked if that would be an area they could tighten as it seems broad. She feels that area could easily be abused if someone wanted to; and the SRO having access to school records. She also wanted to clarify the crisis planning if it will fall under the SRO since it is in the MOU. Discussion was held on this regarding the SRO being a police officer and the police department is indicated as being a part of the crisis planning. The MOU identifies the organization and not the position, but they can add the SRO to spell it out further. Ms. Fry asked who was involved in the annual review of the document. Mr. Rauch stated it would be the school district and the city. There will be a meeting with the school district, the city manager, and the police chief. Mr. Wyen also needs to take this to the school board for approval as well.


Mr. Joseph asked if the K-9 unit had any involvement with school searches. Chief Robinson stated it does not. Mr. Joseph discussed how in his high school they had an SRO with a K-9 companion, and it was effective. He thinks it brought value to the program. The dog was trained for drug and locker searches. He would be interested in looking into this for the future. Mrs. Franklin stated they are separate entities, and they would have to be called in to the schools. Mr. Joseph stated it is something to consider down the road.

**CITY MANAGER UPDATES:** Mr. Rauch stated they are beginning the fiscal year 2023 budget process. He is building a new budget model for next year with hope it is the last time since they will be in a new finance software system. He discussed what he is assuming for the next budget and will continue conversations until the end of the year. He hopes to have the budget adopted by early December and dedicating most of October to the budget process. Mr. Joseph asked if they would be audited out of SSI. Mr. Rauch stated they are running both financial systems parallel in 2022; in 2023, they will be under the new SSI system. He stated he would like to move the September 8, 2022, work session to September 22, 2022, as the Air Force Ball is on the 8<sup>th</sup> and he will also be out of town.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:** Mayor Williams stated the Dayton Metro Library had a community event/open house for the Burkhardt Branch yesterday. The parking lot across the street is finished. It was a great turnout. It is a wonderful asset next door to Riverside and serves a number of Riverside residents. Mrs. Lommatzsch added that many people may not be aware of all the services they provide like faxes and copies. She added that there is a blood drive on Monday. Ms. Fry stated there is a blood drive, Monday, 3:30 – 7:30 pm. There are still openings, visit [www.donortime.com](http://www.donortime.com) and look for Riverside.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Deputy Mayor Denning moved, seconded by Mr. Joseph, to adjourn. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.

  
Peter J. Williams, Mayor

  
Clerk of Council